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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

25X1A

COUNTRY Indochina
SUBJECT Viet Minh Refugees/PrisonersPLACE ACQUIRED
(BY SOURCE)

25X1A

DATE ACQUIRED
(BY SOURCE)

DATE (OF INFO.) Feb 54 and earlier

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1. Refugees have little difficulty leaving the Viet Minh area and getting into Vietnam. Many of them are almost literally pushed out by the Viet Minh from areas where food is short and there are too many people.
2. During periods when fighting is heavy, 1,000 to 1,500 refugees may come out in a single day. The daily average is probably around 200.
3. The refugees are mostly poverty-stricken, old men and women, many are cripples, and all of them are hungry. There are no young men of military age amongst the refugees. Practically all of the refugees are screened and processed in groups for eventual resettlement in refugee villages by FOA teams known as "GAMO". The refugees are well treated by the Vietnamese, and the French are good to them. They are free to stay and, for the most part, happy to remain in the villages where they have been resettled.
4. The exceedingly small percentage of educated refugees are very carefully screened, and many of them are used by the Vietnamese for propaganda purposes. After the screening they are usually put on six months' probation and are then allowed to do pretty much as they please. There is no real concern over any of the refugees going back to the Viet Minh.
5. Viet Minh prisoners taken by the French are almost entirely of the coolie class. After six months of comparatively good treatment, they have no desire to return, and many of them are released for labor force use.

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